



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Learning Abounds in September
- Getting Started in Ham Radio
- Seattle OEM Fall Training Opportunities
- Your Disaster Stories

## TIP OF THE MONTH

This month's tip comes from *Blockwatch Co-Captains Leo Butzel & Robbie Reaber* who have been working on their neighborhood plan for about three years:

"Best tip—know where to gather and provide a constant reminder of the plan's content. The reality for our neighborhood is the high percentage of people in and out of the area. Given a real disaster, our response will have to be quite creative, but success depends on all who are here to come together quickly to decide how to proceed."

More details on sidebar page 2.

# Office of Emergency Management

FALL QUARTER



SEPTEMBER, 2010

## Fall Season Raises Awareness September Brings Multiple Learning Opportunities

**Kids aren't the only ones** with something to learn as September swings into high gear. Check out these opportunities going on both locally and around the state:

**Statewide Drop, Cover and Hold Earthquake Drill**, Wednesday, Sept. 15, 10:15 a.m. The drill will be initiated through the Emergency Alert System. Tune into local TV and radio stations. For more on preparing your school or business for the [earthquake drill](#), click here.

**Tsunami Warning Communications Test**, Wednesday, Sept. 15, 10:15 a.m. This test coincides with the statewide earthquake drill. Warning sirens in 40 locations, part of All-Hazard Alert Broadcast (AHAB), will sound on five Washington coastal counties—Pacific,

Grays, Harbor, Jefferson and Clallam. The sirens play a wail sound, rather than the standard chimes. To hear the different tones and get more about [AHAB](#), click here.

**Weather Radio Month**—Governor Chris Gregoire has also proclaimed September NOAA Weather Radio Month. A weather radio serves as a personal all-hazard warning system. An alarm activates for immediate life-threatening events such as windstorms, tsunamis and hazardous materials releases. The goal of this year's campaign is to make weather radios as common and necessary as smoke alarms in the home, workplace and classroom! For more on NOAA weather radios, including where to purchase them, [click here](#).



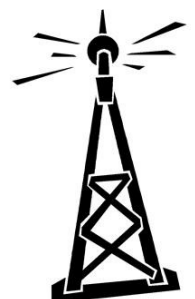
## ... and here in Seattle

### **Communications Academy Lite: Getting Started in Amateur Radio—the Beginner's Track**

This new all-day seminar takes place on Saturday, Oct. 2 at South Seattle Community College. Focus is on newly licensed hams, as well as folks from HUBs, CERT, SAR and other disciplines who use radio, but are new to it.

Different sessions provide info on how to select a radio, how to talk on the radio, operating on the nets and other topics of interest to new communicators. This workshop takes you to the next level, now that you have your license!

To download the flyer, view the schedule and register on-line, [click here](#).



## TIP OF THE MONTH—

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

More from Blockwatch Co-Captains Leo Butzel & Robbie Reaber who have been working on their neighborhood plan for about three years:

- It has helped energize the neighborhood that the Seattle fault runs almost directly under our area!
- A disaster “Where to Gather” plan has been formulated and distributed to all.
- Information and permission-to-enter forms have been collected from over 90 percent of the families.
- Medical supplies have been collected and stored in three different locations.
- Many families have established three-day survival kits.



E-mail us your best preparedness tip, and you might be featured in the next newsletter! [SNAP@seattle.gov](mailto:SNAP@seattle.gov)

# Seattle OEM Training: Fall 2010

Classes stay in full swing between now and November. **Register via e-mail at: [snap@seattle.gov](mailto:snap@seattle.gov) or call 206-233-5076.**

**Download the flyers at: [www.seattle.gov/emergency](http://www.seattle.gov/emergency) (look under Hot Topics).** Forward to friends, neighbors and co-workers!

**Sept. 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Seattle EOC: SNAP Continuing Education Workshop: Effective Drills & Exercises**—if you’ve got your plan together and need some help putting it into action, this is for you! Register by Sept. 27, 2010.

**Oct. 13, 20 and 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Seattle EOC: SNAP Leadership Academy**—three-week course for those seeking more in-depth knowledge, skill

and training on how to organize a group around preparedness.

**Sept. 25-Nov. 20 (dates and times vary), Magnuson Park, Bldg. 406): Disaster Skills Training**—enhance your ability to personally respond and prioritize tasks with others after a disaster.

**Oct. 15, 8:30-noon, Seattle EOC: Fire Safety and Disaster Preparedness for Apartment Managers**—develop disaster and evacuation plans for multi-family communities. Organize within your building to stay self-sufficient after a disaster. Register online at: [www.seattle.gov/fire](http://www.seattle.gov/fire).

**Various dates at city libraries: SNAP classes**—go to the [OEM Calendar](#).

## Disaster Stories: Lessons Learned



This spring, Seattle and King County partnered with [MyNorthwest.com](http://MyNorthwest.com) to promote the “3 to Get Ready” campaign. We asked if you had a disaster story to tell. Here’s what you shared with us:

**See Here:** I needed my eyeglasses during an emergency and couldn’t find them. Now I keep a spare pair pinned to my mattress and an old pair in my car.

**Learned the Hard Way:** When I went through my first earthquake, I did what you are NOT supposed to do—I ran outside. Now I know better.

**Stinky, but Safe:** I work at an elementary school and we do frequent fire drills and tornado drills. Our tornado drill spot is in the boys’ bathroom ... a stinky, but safe spot to be in our building!

**Have Food, Will Travel:** I broke into the disaster food supply in my trunk one summer while stuck in construction traffic on I-90 just east of the pass.

**Next Time, Save the Ice Cream:** During the big ice storm two winters ago, I should

have put all my frozen food in a cooler and put it outside. But I didn’t think about that. Duh!

**Don’t Get Fooled:** I was in Southern California visiting my parents (age 84 and 82) when a strong earthquake hit. I immediately went into “protective mode” thinking they would need help during this scary time. Imagine my surprise when my frail mother calmly pulled a fully-loaded suitcase full of emergency supplies out from under the kitchen table and rolled it to the front porch so she would have access to it if the rest of the house was damaged. She then quickly crawled under the table to protect herself in case of additional aftershocks. She was prepared, both practically and emotionally, and was the perfect example for all of us!

**And finally, this says it all:** I’m preparing—so cool!

Thanks to all for your insight, inspiration and participation!